



BEACONSFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

YEAR 1943.

T.P. EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Hall,

Beaconsfield.

September, 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1943.

Once again the Ministry of Health has asked on grounds of national security that Annual Reports should not publish population figures or refer to activities in conjunction with war-time industrial, military or other important developments. It has been suggested, however, that matters of current interest such as Tuberculosis (including the new allowances scheme), venereal disease, and diptheria immunisation might be taken into consideration so far as the Council is one which is responsible, but the only one of these for which this Council is responsible is Diptheria Immunisation. Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are the responsibility of the Bucks County Council.

Of Diptheria, it is enough here to say that the total number of cases notified during the year was 3, and upon this low figure there are two comments that can rightly be made. In the first place, of the 3 notifications, only one was of a child under 15 years of age and in the second place, the total number of cases for the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 together only totalled in all 8, which compares very favourably indeed with the number notified in the previous year, 1940, which was 21. Whether this result was entirely attributable to the widespread immunisation of children in the district against diptheria, it is difficult to say with certainty, but it is a fact that prophylactic immunisation against diptheria has been conducted on anything like an extensive scale only during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943. The result is that up to the 31st. December 1943, it was estimated that of the then child population of Beaconsfield, the following percentages were immunised against Diptheria.

0 - 5 Age Group.
74.6 per cent.

5 - 15 Age Group.
84.2 per cent.

For this satisfactory result in the lower age group I have to thank the voluntary workers at the Welfare Clinic and also the two District Nurses for their willing co-operation, whilst the result in the older age group could only be secured by the active co-operation of the Headteachers of the various schools.

During the year, there was a Conference of Local Authorities held under the auspices of the Council of Health Education in London. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the then Minister of Health attended and addressed the Conference. The Venereal Diseases Clinics organised by the Bucks County Council are situate at Windsor, High Wycombe and Aylesbury.

In conclusion, it is once again a pleasing duty to thank the officers of the Council for their active co-operation and to record my gratitude to my Colleague Mr. Crosby, your Sanitary Inspector, for his expert assistance and I feel sure that the Council would wish me to thank the two District Nurses, viz., Nurse Craft and Nurse Ralph for their assistance at the Welfare Clinics. And finally, may I thank you Mr. Chairman and Councillors, for your unfailing support and kindly assistance throughout the year.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

T. P. EVANS.

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT.

A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Special Conditions.
Area: Population.
Births and Deaths.

B. HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulance Facilities.
Nursing.
Clinics and Hospitals.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.
Drainage and Sewerage.
Closet Accommodation.

D. HOUSING.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.
Meat.

F. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

S T A F F.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T. P. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JOHN H. CROSBY, F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) of District.....5,314.
Number of Inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)...1,750.
Rateable Value of Area.....£79,783.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate.....£330.18.9.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There has been a change in social conditions due to the direction of labour and the placing in the district of a war-time factory with its imported labour and absorption of local directed labour.

BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	55.	46.	101.
Illegitimate	3.	4.	7.

(b) Still Births.

Legitimate	3.	1.	4.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Still Rate per 1000 total births = 37.03.

DEATHS.

(a) Deaths from puerperal causes.....NIL.

(b) Deaths of Infants under one year of age....1.

Deaths of Infants per 1,000 legitimate live
births = 9.9.

Infantile Mortality.

All infants per 1,000 live births = 9.2.

Diseases.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Heart Disease.....	8	9	17.
2. Cancer.....	1	9	10.
3. Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	3	7	10.
4. Bronchitis.....	3	4	7.
5. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	2	0	5.
6. Other forms of Tuberculosis..	1	0	1.
7. Other circulatory diseases...	1	2	3.
8. Diabetes.....	-	-	-
9. Pneumonia.....	-	1	1.
10. Influenza.....	-	1	1.
11. Peptic Ulcer.....	-	-	-
12. Other Digestive Disturbances.	2	1	3.
13. Syphilitic Diseases.....	-	-	-
14.	-	-	-
15. Nephritis.....	1	-	1.
16. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)....	-	-	-
17. Appendicitis.....	1	-	1.
18. Puerperal Causes.....	-	-	-
19. Premature Births.....	-	-	-
20. Congenital (birth) causes....	1	-	1.
21. Suicide.....	1	1	2.
22. Road Traffic Accidents.....	2	-	2.
23. Other violent causes.....	2	1	3.
24. All other causes.....	3	2	5.
	<u>35</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>73.</u>

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years these continue to be provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Park Place, Oxford.

2. Ambulance Service.

St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Colonel Hunt, maintains the Ambulance Service and during the past year has purchased a new ambulance. This is a welcome addition to the Service.

3. Nursing in the Home.

Two District Nurses practised in the town during the year 1943. In addition to attending cases at their houses, the nurses give their services to the monthly Welfare Clinics held at the Old Rectory. Their address is as follows:-

Nurse Craft. S.R.N. C.M.B.
Nurse Ralph. S.R.N. C.M.B.
The Cottage, Wycombe End, Beaconsfield.

4. Clinics and Hospitals.

The only change to record here is the opening of the Collingswood Maternity Home by the Bucks County Council. This Nursing Home is intended to serve primarily the needs of South East part of the County - particularly Slough. Suitable eligible cases from Beaconsfield are also admitted.

At Amersham there is an Emergency Medical Services Hospital to which urgent cases continue to be sent from Beaconsfield.

During the year, the Venereal Diseases Scheme of the Bucks County Council established clinics at the King Edward VII Hospital at Windsor and also at Frogmore, High Wycombe.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....26.
- (2) Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.....10.

This district, being close to the London area, whilst fairly safe from bombing, has been subject to periodic overcrowding whenever the attacks on the London area have been increased, so that the work of the Sanitary Inspector has been more concerned with assisting people to be as comfortable as possible under the unfortunate circumstances. Generally, housing conditions within the district have been maintained at an exceptionally good standard having regard to all the circumstances.

Sewage and Sewering.

As has been previously reported, practically the whole district is sewered on the separate system and in spite of the shortage of labour, the considerable increase in the dry water flow and a certain amount of trade waste which has been delivered at the sewage works, where previously the sewage was of a purely domestic character, the works have been maintained in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, though it is intended to carry out a certain amount of improvement when the time is opportune.

Water Supply.

The majority of the area of the District is covered by the Amersham, Beaconsfield Water Company, the exception is the Holtspur area, which prior to the 1931 Boundary revision was part of the Wycombe Rural Area. This district is served by the Marlow Water Company.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's scheme of free service of Cesspool emptying is still maintained on the basis of emptying to be carried out within 24 hours of given notice.

In spite of war difficulties in obtaining labour, a regular collection of House Refuse has been maintained. The Refuse is dumped in conjunction with an industrial firm who had to dispose of a large quantity of Aluminium Salt, so that adequate cover for the dumped refuse has been provided.

Salvage Return for the Year 1943.

This District has maintained its splendid record in the County of being second only to the Borough of Aylesbury in its efficient collection of Salvage.

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cats.</u>	<u>Crs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Mixed Paper.	124	9	1	0
Bones.	4	16	1	2
Bottles & Glass Cullet.	34	2	3	0
Textiles.	4	6	1	2
Ferrous Metal.	7	16	1	0
Non-ferrous Metal.		10	3	8
Rubber.	2	11	1	0
	<u>178.</u>	<u>12.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>12.</u>

Total cash received for sale of above material
\$1014. 18. 10.

D. HOUSING.

The Council are continuing a progressive policy for Post War Housing. Sites have been selected, and subject to the necessary ministerial department approval, negotiations for purchase are to be proceeded with. The sites if approved, will provide for approximately 168 houses in a three year programme.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Shops where food is sold or prepared within the district are maintained at a high standard and the following is a list of food which has been condemned. In most cases it was the shop-keepers who drew our attention at once to any signs of a bad condition.

<u>Tinned Meat.</u>	<u>Fresh Meat.</u>	<u>Fish.</u>	<u>Poultry.</u>	<u>Cheese.</u>	<u>Eggs.</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
91 tins.	255 lbs.	62 stone.	2 head.	20lbs.	269.	96 tins food.
Weight 209 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.						

F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Beaconsfield Urban District Council is not a Welfare Authority. The duties and responsibilities in that respect are the concern of the Bucks County Council. Nevertheless the Council decided to co-operate in the suggestions made by the Ministry of Health in connection with Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Council resolved to give effect to the Ministry of Health's suggestion in Circular 2733 with regard to the employment of general practitioners in the Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation. The practitioners practising within the Urban District Council were approached with this end in view and they agreed to the terms of the suggested Press advertisements, recommending the immunisation of children between one and five years of age - either by the family doctor in his own surgery or at the monthly Welfare Clinic held on the first Friday of each month, by the Doctor in charge. Immunisation was to be free of all costs to the parents or guardians of such children.

In Beaconsfield, a total of 97 immunisations were completed during the year 1943: this represents 70 children in the dangerous 0-5 age group and 27 children in the school 5-15 age group.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease	Cases Notified	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	14	11	Nil
Diphtheria	3	3	Nil
Measles	260	3	Nil
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	6	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	-
25-34	1	1			1	-	-	-
35-44	-	-			3	-	-	-
45-54	-	-			1	-	-	-
55-65	1	1						
Total.	3	4			9			

